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DN EXTRA

March 2006

Unseen faces

BBC's new research

On the block

Two more services face the chop

DN EXTRA...

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Tripscope close to closure

BY JOHN PRING

The only national travel and transport advice service for disabled people is to close at the end of this month, because of a lack of financial support from the industry.

Tripscope, which is based in Bristol, receives 6,000 calls a year and has helped more than 75,000 disabled people since it launched in 1987.

The closure is the latest evidence of a funding crisis affecting services for disabled people across the UK (*DN, January and March*).

Tripscope would need about £100,000 a year for at least the next three years to stay open*.

Brian Howard, Tripscope's executive director, said many trusts and organisations like Transport for London and local authorities in the Bristol area had provided "steadfast" support, but other major public transport providers had been reluctant to provide funding.

He said: "It would be wonderful to be able to say, 'job well done, time to pack up and go home.' We feel sadly that time has not yet arrived. It will do, but it is not that time yet.

"Eventually the public transport and travel industry will get up to speed with trying to treat disabled people equally along with everybody else, but they are not yet able to do so."

Many organisations wrongly believe disabled people now receive equal treatment because "they have got the DDA", he added.

** To help, tel: 08457 585641*

Free service on the brink

A unique Scottish counselling service for disabled people is on the brink of closure because of a funding crisis.

The Peer Counselling Service (PCS) run by Lothian Centre for Integrated Living in Edinburgh has been running since 1993 and offers counselling to more than 20 disabled people every week.

Many of them have faced financial, attitudinal and physical barriers in accessing mainstream counselling.

PCS has a waiting list of people from Edinburgh and the Lothian region waiting to use its service. The 13 counsellors are all disabled volunteers who have undergone a four-year professional training scheme.

Hazel Farley*, manager of the PCS, said it would be "unimaginable" if the service had to close.

She said: "The clients...will not be able to get this service anywhere else. It is taking away huge support from them. It would just be devastating. We have got to find a way to keep it going."

A three-year grant from the Scottish Executive ends this month and local authorities and Lothian NHS Board have so far failed to come up with funding to continue the free service, even though many referrals come from social workers, day centres, GPs and occupational therapists.

PCS needs £58,000 to continue until the next round of funding applications, or £70,000 for another year.

** To help, contact Mrs Farley, tel: 0131 475 2350 or email: hazel@lothiancil.demon.co.uk*

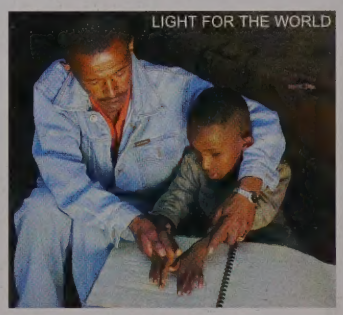
Training day: A new initiative* will help European Union (EU) members include disabled people in joint projects fighting poverty in developing countries.

A dozen disability organisations will come together to produce information that will help decision-makers across the EU.

Gebremeskel (*pictured*), a blind, six-year-old Ethiopian boy, has received Braille and mobility training from the Light for the World development co-operation project that should enable him to live an independent life.

But less than one in 20 of the 500 million disabled people in developing countries are included in other joint development initiatives.

** Breaking the cycle of poverty and disability in development co-operation.*



On the cover: The BBC has published the first in-depth research into how people with learning difficulties use the media. Many of those interviewed called for more people with learning difficulties to appear on screen. Pictured are Christopher Ecclestone (*left*) and Peter Kirby, who has a learning difficulty, in the BBC2 drama Flesh and Blood, screened in 2002. *Picture © BBC.* *See page five*

Drinkers barred

BY **JOHN PRING**

Nearly half of British pubs make it difficult or impossible for disabled customers to pop in to their local for a pint, according to a new survey.

The audit of more than 100 pubs and bars across the UK by the disability charity Leonard Cheshire found wheelchair users were unable to enter nearly one in six of the venues.

And wheelchair users could only enter another quarter of the pubs with assistance.

David Gunn (*pictured*), who took part in the audits in Inverness, Scotland, said: "At one establishment it was quite embarrassing having to wait outside on the pavement until a member of staff found keys to open the emergency exit for entry and at another, I wasn't able to choose where to sit because of internal steps."

Other access hurdles faced during the survey included two fifths of venues without an accessible toilet, almost half unable to provide menus in alternative formats and less than half with disabled parking spaces.

But nearly four in five of the charity's auditors found staff helpful and welcoming.

Guy Parckar, parliamentary and campaigns officer for Leonard Cheshire, said: "Pubs and bars are legally bound to provide an accessible service, and whilst some were very good, too often we found the definition of accessibility only stretched to providing a ramp for entry."

Leonard Cheshire called for trade organisations to publish access codes of practice, and for pub owners to introduce access policies and carry out access audits and disability equality training for staff.

**Public House? – a report into pubs and accessibility, tel: 020 78023307 or visit http://campaigns.leonard-cheshire.org/page.php/research.html*

NUS backs bill

BY **ELIZABETH CHOPPIN**

The UK's main network of disabled university students has renewed its support for Lord Joffe's Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill, following its annual meeting in Blackpool last month.

At the National Union of Students, Students with Disabilities (NUS SWD) conference, members passed a motion to campaign on the bill and continue consultation with euthanasia charity Dignity in Dying (formerly the Voluntary Euthanasia Society).

James Hughes, a SWD committee member, said that support of the legislation on assisted dying should depend on "three fundamental principles" – a clear definition of "terminally ill" outlined in the bill, respect for patient autonomy and "adequate safeguards" such as counselling and legal interviews.

Delegate James Piper of Manchester University told the conference that Lord Joffe's bill gives terminally ill people a core right to life or death.

He said: "It is not an easy decision. It is a tough one. We should support families and individuals to have the right to choose within a system that protects the patient."

But Ian Moody of Ruskin College, Oxford, said: "To pass this bill would be morally and ethically problematic and I think that we should consider that there are a lot of issues here."

* *To read full coverage of the NUS SWD conference, see DN, April.*

Members of the Down's Heart Group held a parliamentary reception last month to mark International Congenital Heart Day. Pictured is Ali Pearce (*second from left*), who took many of the pictures for the group, which supports people who have Down's syndrome and heart conditions. Also pictured are (*from left*) chair Cliff Lake, vice chair Chris Stringfellow and director Penny Green.

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Mayor's adviser slams access

BY **JOHN PRING**

The Mayor of London's adviser on disability has hit out at organisations that are still failing to improve access for disabled people in the capital.

David Morris was unable to attend the launch of a pamphlet by the organisation Involve because of a steep flight of steps leading to its listed offices in Covent Garden.

The pamphlet discusses ways of increasing public participation in democracy.

Mr Morris, a wheelchair user, said: "What they were really saying was they did not want to involve disabled people in democracy. It just shows a lack of understanding of equality issues generally."

Edward Andersson, a research co-ordinator for Involve, said the failure was "frankly embarrassing".

He said: "We are a new charity. It has raised issues for us that we need to consider for our next event."

The launch last month came only three weeks after Mr Morris was unable to access the stage to give a speech at an event organised by the social care magazine Community Care in north London.

Mr Morris said: "I am absolutely astounded by the number of times I am facing problems. If I am facing this, what hope have the rest of the population got?"

Mark Ivory, acting editor of Community Care, said the lift hired by the venue "turned out not to work".

He said the magazine had been "very apologetic" and would now use ramps at all events. If that was not possible, there would be at least two means of accessing the stage for wheelchair users.

ROBERT ABERMAN

Picture perfect: Interpreter Wendy Kline and nurse James Otter test a remote sign language interpreting service for deaf people, unveiled at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Trust last month. The trust deals with 30 patients who use British Sign Language every month and is the first NHS organisation to use the technology, provided by London-based Significan't.

Unseen, unheard

The BBC should make more programmes about people with learning difficulties and the issues that concern them, according to its own research.

The report*, commissioned by the BBC's diversity centre, is believed to be the first time in-depth research has been carried out into the experiences of UK audiences with learning difficulties.

The research found that 98 per cent of people with learning difficulties watch television regularly and that they watch more TV than other audiences.

The most watched programmes were soaps such as EastEnders and Coronation Street, although interviewees were unhappy at the absence of characters with learning difficulties.

Participants in the research all found the news difficult to understand and wanted an accessible news programme on TV, as well as more accessible radio and internet services.

Karen Spencer, chairperson of Central England People First, who took part in the research, said: "I believe that the BBC should make things more accessible for people with learning difficulties."

A BBC spokeswoman said the research was "a very important piece of work" and the diversity centre would discuss it with programme makers and circulate the report widely across the BBC.

** Not seen, not heard - learning disabled audiences and the media. For a copy, email diversity.centre@bbc.co.uk or write to: BBC diversity centre, BBC media centre, Wood Lane, London W12 7TQ.*

DN HACKED OFF

JOHN STANTON

How would a sports editor feel about a reporter who couldn't drive to a press conference?

Another day, another press conference.

As soon as I heard Wales football manager John Toshack and his squad would be holding a media briefing, I was quick to tell the sports editor on my student newspaper that I would love to go.

Until I realised the event would be held at a luxurious hotel complex on the outskirts of town, miles from the nearest train station and inaccessible by any other means of public transport. A taxi, of course, would have been far too expensive.

Fortunately, as we are still students for the next few months, one of my colleagues said he would love to go as well, and he was able to drive.

'Had no-one been around, I would have missed out on the stories that matter'

But in the future, in the real world, what will happen?

I managed to get some great quotes, a few interesting angles and plenty of material for the next edition of our paper.

My stories may well lead our sports agenda and my editor will be delighted.

But had no-one been around to offer me a lift, I would have missed out on the stories that matter to sports fans in Cardiff. Someone else would have got the key interviews and my paper would have lost sales.

Because of the wealth that swamps sport, it is no surprise the Football Association of Wales should choose to hold its press briefings in the most lavish and impressive location available. It just so happens the venue is a 20-minute drive from the nearest train station.

Fortunately, thanks to their mass appeal, sports grounds and stadia tend to be easily accessible by public transport and so, hopefully, any occasions where I do miss out on a story will be few and far between.

When my course is complete and I find a job on a newspaper with pressing deadlines, I will be interested to see how my news or sports editor responds to a journalist without his own transport.

Hopefully I won't find a pile of press releases on my desk while others are out and about chasing the stories that really matter.

John Stanton is studying for a postgraduate diploma in journalism. He will be writing in *DN Extra* every month as part of our Hacked Off campaign to get more disabled people into journalism and stamp out their misrepresentation in the media.

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Access by design

A computer programme that allows designers to see their own work through the eyes of people with visual impairments has won a prestigious annual design competition.

Last month, the Design Business Association announced the winner and five runners-up of its Inclusive Design Challenge 2005-06.

The competition, launched in 1999, run in conjunction with the Helen Hamlyn Research Centre at the Royal College of Art (RCA) and sponsored by the disability charity Scope, aims to boost the profile of inclusive design.

David Alcock, head of business development at Scope, and a member of the judging panel, said: "By designing products which meet the needs of disabled people, general usability will improve, delivering both real social benefit and increased market share. It is an extremely powerful step towards equality for disabled people."

Although none of the products are yet available to buy, their designers hope they will eventually make it to the marketplace.

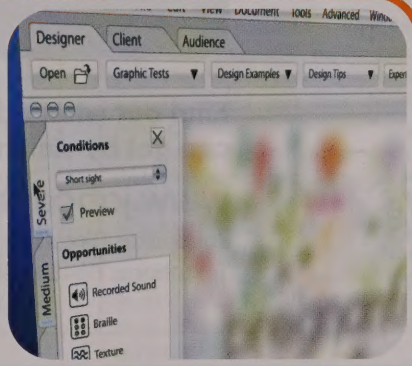
Design guru Sir Terence Conran was among guests at the awards ceremony at the RCA in London on 21 February.

Runner-up *Chatterpack*, by Coley Porter Bell

Chatterpack would embed microchips in a product's packaging so it could deliver a message when it was moved. For instance, a loaf of bread would be able to alert a visually impaired person that it was past its sell-by date.

Winner *Consider*, by Wire Design

Computer software that would allow graphic designers to see how people with a range of visual impairments might see their proposed artwork. The software would allow the user to change the screen so it appears as it would to somebody with a condition such as low vision cataracts, dyslexia or diabetic retinopathy

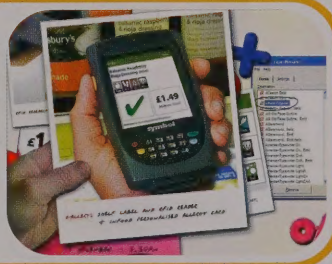


Runner-up *Inclusive fire extinguisher*, by Matter

A fire extinguisher designed to be accessible to people with sight, mobility and dexterity impairments, as well as being beautiful to look at. It could be used with one hand and, like all the finalists, has been tested by disabled people.

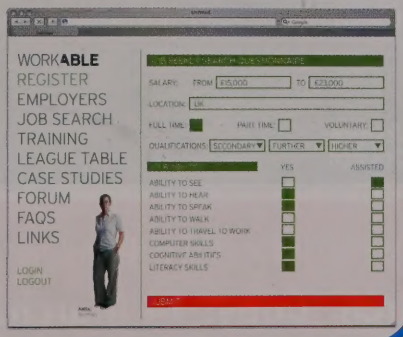
Runner-up *Infood*, by Adecco

An accessible system for labelling food. Symbols would allow consumers with allergies or food intolerances to work out the ingredients of products easily and quickly.



Runner-up *www.workable.org.uk*, by Felton Communication

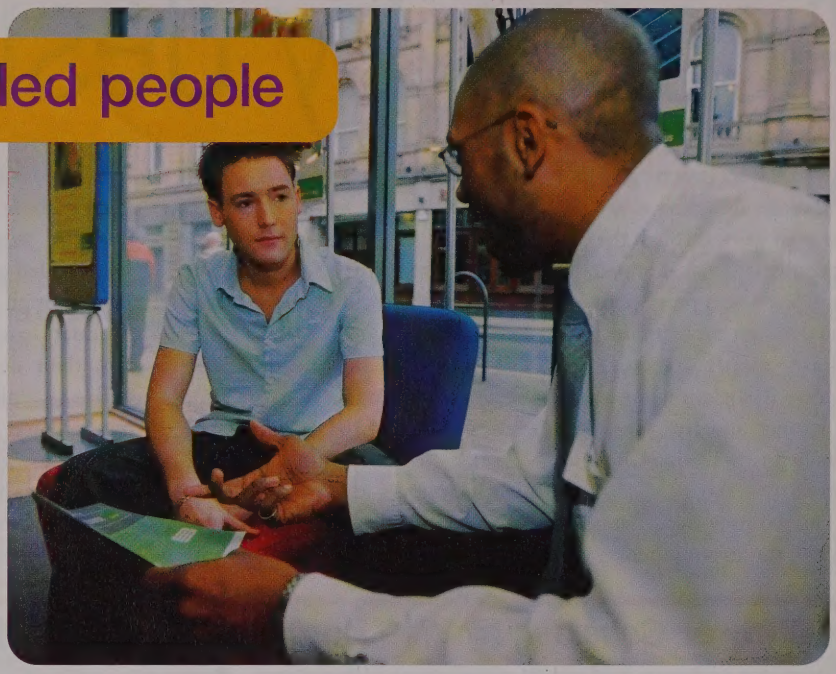
A website that would help disabled people looking for work. The website would allow disabled people to post their CVs and potential employers to advertise their jobs.



Runner-up *The Caddy*, by Wood & Wood Design

A redesigned version of the traditional pushed trolley would be affordable, functional, stylish and accessible to disabled and older people.

Support for disabled people



If you have a disability or health condition that affects your chances of finding or keeping a job, ask to see a Disability Employment Adviser, based in your local Jobcentre Plus office or Jobcentre.

They can provide:

- help with finding and keeping a job
- support with benefit entitlement and programmes like New Deal, and
- advice to employers on employing disabled people.

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Warwickshire County Council

BE THE DIFFERENCE

DEADLINE – *Disability Now* April 2006 published 25 March.
Classified deadlines: Booking: 10 March. Copy: 14 March.

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CHAIRMAN CHRYSLER VOYAGER 3.3, S reg (1998), 25k miles, auto, power cruise control, all electric, CD player with 10 stack option. Gowrings conversion incl rear manual ramp with push button hydraulic lowering floor. Carries 5 with wheelchair or 8 without, reinforced floor with anchors and belts. 2 owners from new, fsh, full MOT, cost £42,000 with full conversion, asking £12,000 ono. Tel: 0151 421 0303 (Woolton, Liverpool).

RENAULT KANGOO 1.6 Expression, hand OR foot control, auto, 1k miles only, purchased August 2003. Pas, e/windows and e/mirrors, CD player, metallic silver, 5 door. Steering Developments rear hoist with tailgate and sliding rear doors. Together with small, 4 wheel electric Gogo scooter. Carries 5 with wheelchair. In excellent condition, hardly used, £6,000. Tel: 020 8530 8266 (London/Essex).

PEUGEOT 807 2.0 Hdi, registered November 03, 10.5k miles, e/mirrors and e/windows, air con, electronic rear passenger side doors, pas, CD player. With Constables wheelchair conversion incl rear ramp with electric winch, carries 5 including wheelchair. Still under manufacturer's warranty, cost £28,000 new, asking £18,000 ono. Tel: 02920 629400 (Cardiff) or 07720 450315.

CHAIRMAN RENAULT KANGOO 1.2, Nov 02, 23k miles. With Gowrings Conversion incl ramp for wheelchair. Only 2 owners from new, fsh. Full MOT, £7,250 ono. Tel: 01740 620776 (Sedgefield).

RENAULT TRAFIC DAY van, 1991, tail lift, seats 5 + wheelchair, day bed, toilet, hob and sink. Full details and photos at http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/marlborough/van/ £1,950. Tel: 01234 213675

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FORD ESCORT 1.8 with Constables electric carchair and lift system for front passenger, carries 4 with wheelchair. R reg (1997), MOT expires Oct 2006, 15k miles and only one owner from new. £2,900 ono. Tel: 01206 575680 (Colchester).

CHAIRMAN RENAULT KANGOO 1.4RN, 01 reg, 29k miles, pas, c/locking, immobiliser. Gowrings conversion incl rear fold down ramp, easy access to low level floor, four fixings for stabilising wheelchair plus inertia belt. 2 fixed passenger seats, thus carries total of 5 including wheelchair. MOT expires May 06, tax expires July 06, fsh, only 2 owners from new, asking £6,995 ono. Tel: 01494 816160 (Penn, Bucks) or mobile: 07745 069116.

MERCEDES SPRINTER 214SWB 2.3, auto, first registered September 99 (V reg), full MOT. Full wheelchair conversion by Jubilee Automotive Group with rear ramp enabling wheelchair user direct access to driving controls. Fsh, only 2 owners from new, 26k miles. Cost £40,000 new, asking £15,500 ono. Tel: 0121 355 6911 (Sutton Coldfield) or mobile: 07788 922270.

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CHAIRMAN CHRYSLER VOYAGER 3.3 LX automatic, bright silver metallic with taupe interior. 2002, reg '52. 26k miles. Full rear wheel chair access – professional conversion. Automatic gearbox, cruise control, alloy wheels, air con, privacy glass, alarm, CD/radio/cassette, power steering, ABS, MOT October 2006,tax end of March 06. Full service history. Professional conversion carried out by Gowrings mobility, Newbury. Lowering floor system and short ramp entry. Chair user and 4 passengers inc. driver. Easy Out Roller Seat (rear) can be used when not carrying wheelchair. Excellent condition. £15,995 ono. Tel Debbie Leach: 01869 246687 (Bicester, Oxon). kevin.leach5@btinternet.com

VW TRANSPORTER 1.9 Y Reg, manual, diesel, 51k miles. Can carry up to 2 wheelchair users with tie down fixtures, 3 passenger seats. Rear folding ramp. 1 owner from new. Fsh. £4500 ono. Tel: 0115 9255 163 (Notts). Email: info@dean-thomas.org.uk

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Cont'd see pg 10

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It is anticipated that tender documentation containing more details of the process will be sent out during the week commencing 27th March 2006.

Expressions of interest should be submitted to:
Shabana Hussain, Projects and Partnerships, Adult Services,
LB of Newham, 2nd Floor Broadway House, 322 High Street,
London E15 1AJ.
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At the heart of The Anvil lies its inclusive community and education programme which begins with pre school age children and continues through all ages to working in residential homes for the elderly.

You will be working with acclaimed artists and educationalists managing projects that range from a single event to full-scale community opera and music production.

Applications welcomed from candidates with three years working in an arts or education environment.

The Anvil is seeking to be an equal opportunities employer.

Please let us know if you require information in other formats.

For an information pack and application form ring Stage Door on **01256 819797** or visit **www.theanvil.org.uk**

Closing date for applications is Tuesday 4 April with interviews on Thursday 20 April.

PEUGEOT EXPERT 1.9 diesel, R Reg, 32k miles. Fsh, pas, MOT 'til Nov 06, Mobility Solutions Conversion, capacity: 5 + wheelchair. Lowered floor with kneeling air suspension (just serviced and replaced) and short ramp. 4-point wheelchair fixings with locking inertia belts and full wheelchair seat belt. High view front and large opening side windows giving wheelchair user great visibility. Slide opening side doors. Rear seats swivel through 360 degrees giving great passenger flexibility. £7,195 ono. Tel: 01795 470588 (Sittingbourne, Kent) or mobile: 07973 393464.

CHAIRMAN RENAULT KANGOO 1.9, diesel, 28k miles, 51 reg. Gowrings conversion, seats 5 incl wheelchair, very economical. Cheapest there is @ £6,200, t+t: 07921 290 544 or email at brightorangemini@hotmail.com

• Wheelchairs/scooters

INVACARE STORM 3, new March 2005 (8 months old). Perfect condition, hardly used. Fully equipped with mudguards, lighting, foot rests, battery charger, touchpad controls with proportional joystick etc. Was £5,200 Asking for best offer over £2,500. Tel Diana days: 01262 670642 (Bridlington, E. Yorks).

2 PUMA KINETIC Powerchairs, new March 2003, fully equipped with footrests, keys, bags etc; also includes charger, and is in like-new condition. Was £4,800 pounds new, asking for best offer over £2,000. Tel Diana days: 01262 670642 (Bridlington, E. Yorks).

INVACARE SPECTRA PLUS electric wheelchair with charger, max speed 4 mph, tilt-in-space, cushion seat. 14 months' old, local delivery can be arranged, £2,000 ono. Tel: 0121 522 2466.

9 CYCLONE BASKETBALL wheelchairs, several seat sizes. £5,250 for all, £595 each. For details, tel: 01206 545341 (Colchester).

VENTURE TRANSIT WHEELCHAIR with solid tyres and safety belt, large zipped bag fits over handles for holding shopping. In mint condition, asking £140. Tel: 01932 563440 (Shepperton, Middlesex).

ROAD KNIGHT MINI-4 4 wheel scooter with kerb climber, max speed 8 mph, approx range 15 miles on full charge. With basket, metallic silver, horn. In good condition, cost £1,600 new, asking £480 ono. Tel day: 01206 792152 (Colchester, Essex) or night: 01206 823623.

Cont'd see pg 12

Make your next role as important as ours.

DFID, the Department for International Development: leading the British government's fight against world poverty.

We offer opportunities in our headquarters in London and East Kilbride – but also in many developing countries, with staff based in DFID offices plus British Embassies and High Commissions around the world. We have roles for leaders; professionals; specialists; managers; graduates and administrators.

DFID is an equal opportunities employer. Applications are welcomed from all parts of the community and we actively encourage interest from women, ethnic minority groups and those with a disability. Selection is on merit. Candidates should be UK Nationals, nationals of a member state of the European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth citizens with the right to work in the UK.

You can find out more about us, and our work, on our website www.dfid.gov.uk. You'll also find information about specific vacancies, opportunities, and an electronic application on the site.

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www.dfid.gov.uk

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DN EXTRA ACCOM

scope employment service

Being disabled should create no barriers, so if you possess the skills and experience sought by numerous employers, we're keen to help you find the job that's right for you through our network of employment partners.

Working on behalf of a number of employers throughout the UK who see the skills you can offer as a genuine asset to their organisation, we have the following exciting career opportunities for disabled people keen to live an independent life and reach their potential:

Call Centre Opportunities

Immediate! Training Sector – Salford Quays, Manchester (Feb & March) Junior roles (£12,500) Senior roles (£14,500)
Retail Industry – Leicester (c £12,000+)
Health Insurance – Tunbridge Wells c. £14,500 Salford Quays, Manchester
Financial – Brighton, Southend, Leeds, Sheffield, Leicester, Hemel Hempstead, Southampton, Swansea, Newport – c. £14,000

Skills Required

Strong customer focus, good communication (both written and verbal), computer literacy, administration, problem solving, decision making

Other Opportunities Available

Hotel based opportunities in Manchester, Birmingham and Brighton
Pharmacist vacancies – nationwide – Salaries from £25-£42k
Variety of roles in Retail DIY environment in London, Yeovil, Basingstoke, Salisbury, Wednesbury, Luton
Administration Roles for Central Government office – London

Our partners have opportunities at various levels and can also offer both full and part time permanent employment with competitive packages.

If you are interested in these positions and would like to be considered, regardless of your disability (or would like to see if we can help you find employment in any other area or sector), please send your C.V. and a covering letter including details of the role and location which interests you, your salary expectations, plus details of your disability and how you have overcome any challenges in the workplace. Also, please indicate clearly whether you are currently in work/full time education/unemployed and seeking work or in danger of losing your current job due to your disability.

Please email to: employment.support@scope.org.uk or post to: Scope's Employment Service, Suite 1a, King's Hall, St Ives Business Park, Parsons Green, St Ives PE27 4WY or tel: 01480 309615, quoting ref: DN/0306.

Scope's Employment Service is involved in assisting disabled people into and remaining in work. To find out more about the services we provide, visit our website: www.scope.org.uk/work

For disabled people achieving equality

Hartgrove Farm

Shaftsbury Dorset
Award winning holiday cottages on working farm. A really lovely holiday for disabled guests and their families. Glorious countryside and views. Logfires. C.H. Wheel-in shower. Mobile Hoist and other equipment.
Tel: 01747 811830
www.hartgrovefarm.co.uk

Normandy France

Magnificent accessible farm house in beautiful 1 acre garden. Sleeps 14 (6 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms) huge G.F. ensuite bedroom, Wheel-in shower, bath, mobile hoist. Superb heated swimming pool, 25 mins unspoilt sandy beaches. Only 1 hr from port.
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www.normandyfarmhouses.co.uk

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Florida villa owned by paraplegic. Sleeps up to 12, fully accessible and large. King size bed with ensuite bathroom. wc and wheel-in shower. Large pool with water operated seat for a disabled person. A holiday you can take with confidence. Contact John Gillett on: 01805 601147.

DN EXTRA FOR SALE

0151 Chrysler Grand Voyager 2.5 CR Diesel LX, Side Ramp + 6 seats, Leather, 1 owner, 38000miles, FSH agents, £40000 new, £11,995 (Other vehicles available, Dealer Facilities, Hoyle Bros) 01422202009 or 07786735544. **Trade**

JAZZY 1121 ELECTRIC wheelchair, 3 years' old, blue. In good condition, £1,000 ono. Tel: 0777 9691510 (Maidstone).

PRIDE LX POWERCHAIR with kerb climber and charger. Range up to 40 km on full charge, max speed 6 kmh. Metallic blue, joystick control, drop handle bars/easily dismantled for transportation or storage. In immaculate condition, only used once, £790 ono. Tel: 020 8681 8469 (South London) email: davidgcroy@yahoo.co.uk

INVACARE SPECTRA PLUS electric wheelchair max speed 4 mph, metallic blue. Will deliver in UK and fit brand new batteries on arrival. Absolute bargain, £950. Tel: 01204 418778 (Bolton) or mobile: 07908 242320.

• Property for sale

DERBYSHIRE – MODERN FULLY wheelchair accessible 3 bedroom detached bungalow. En-suite level access shower + additional family bathroom. Spacious lounge. Kitchen/dinner. Garage. Wheelchair access to attractive garden & block paved patio area. Convenient for all local services & access to M1 J30. £174,995. Tel: 01246 280397. www.accessible-property.org.uk

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD 2x1 bedroom ground floor flats. Low level disabled access front and back. Access to garden. Reserved parking in front. Off plan: can fit specific kitchen etc. From £120,000. Contact Relton 07713 246163. email: relton_jph@yahoo.com

TO LET – DENTON, Manchester. Fully wheelchair accessible modern detached bungalow in quiet cul-de-sac. Two bedrooms. Adapted bathroom with level access shower and safety floor covering. Offered unfurnished but includes carpets, curtains, fridge/freezer and new electric cooker. Garden with greenhouse. Ample parking. Rent - £675 PCM. Tel: 0161 366 5775 www.accessible-property.org.uk

• Household & Families

OXFORD MINI-HOIST, manual, hardly used. £395 ono. Tel: 07831 417037 (W.Midlands).

BATHMATE, USED THREE times, cost £995 in July 05. £600 ono . Sale as not suitable for my disability. Tel (after 1630): 01353 861610.

WINSFORD ELECTRONIC FEEDER for independent use. With rechargeable battery, in Samsonite travelling case, with all accessories incl, cup holder, splash pan. A year old, £800 or any reasonable offers considered. Tel: 07855 526437 (Rotherham).

ELECTRIC SINGLE CARER bed (approx 6 ft 10 x 3 ft 5) with mattress. Made by Huntleigh Healthcare. Each end raises independently as does the overall height of the bed all with a brand new handset. Excellent condition. Available for only £300.00 but buyer must collect with own transport (please note bed very heavy!). Tel: 07734 770133 (Bury)

ARJO PRIMO HIGH/low tub with hydro massage. With disinfection system, shower attachment, automatic filling system and temperature control. 9 months' old, hardly used, cost £10,000, asking £5,000. Tel: 01274 585706 (West Yorks).

DN EXTRA PUBLIC NOTICE

Thames Valley Police Authority

Appointment of an Independent Member

Thames Valley has six independent members who, together with ten councillors and three magistrates, are responsible for securing an efficient and effective police force in Thames Valley, consulting the public about the work of the police and building a partnership between the police and local communities.

Independent Members are expected to:

- Attend all meetings of the Authority and appropriate committees and panels.
- Participate in public consultation on local policing issues, including evening meetings and public speaking.
- Keep abreast of developments in both local and national policing.
- Represent the Authority in discussions with interested parties.

A commitment of about 7 to 10 hours per week is required, for which an allowance and expenses are payable.

We are looking for people with:

- Good communication skills and a willingness to seek out and listen to the views of all sections of the local community on policing issues.
- Relevant skills, experience and knowledge – for example, in management, business, finance, community or race relations.
- The ability to represent a broad range of local communities and challenge accepted views in a constructive way.

Thames Valley Police Authority wishes to reflect the composition of the area and welcomes applications from all eligible people irrespective of gender, ethnic origin, religious belief, sexual orientation, disability or other factor. We want our independent membership to represent as diverse a range of people as possible.

Applicants must live or work in one of the three counties of Thames Valley – Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire or Berkshire.

For more information on how to apply and an application form write to:
Thames Valley Police Authority, The Farmhouse, Force Headquarters, Kidlington OX5 2NX, tel: 01865 846780 or e-mail: TVPA@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Closing date for applications: Friday 31st March 2006.

DN EXTRA FOR SALE

2004 (53) **Fiat Doblo** O&H conversion 1.9TD high roof, elec. windows, central locking, 3 seats plus wheelchair space, rear ramp, 4,400 miles. **£8,500**

2003 (03) **Renault Kangoo 1.2** Aspect conversion, central locking, 3 seats plus wheelchair space ,rear ramp, 22,900 miles. **£7,500**

2001 (51) **Peugeot Partner 1.3** Botherwood conversion, elec. windows and roof, central locking, 4 seats plus wheelchair, rear ramp, 3,500 miles. **£8,500**

Please contact: Wentworth Motor Co, 10-14 Portman Terrace, Southbourne, Bournemouth BH5 2HP. Tel 01202 425606 or visit www.wentworthmotorco.co.uk

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DN EXTRA RECRUITMENT

Transport for London

Appointment of Advisers to Independent Disability Advisory Group - TfL

Transport for London (TfL) was created in 2000 as the integrated body responsible for the Capital's transport system. The primary role of TfL is to implement the Mayor of London's Transport Strategy and manage transport services across the Capital. TfL is responsible for London's buses, the Underground, the Docklands Light Railway (DLR) and the management of Croydon Tramlink and London River Services. We also run Victoria Coach Station and London's Transport Museum. TfL is responsible for a 580km network of main roads and all of London's 4,600 traffic lights. With our partners, we also have responsibility for Door to Door Services, such as Dial-a-Ride and Taxi Card.

We are setting up an Independent Disability Advisory Group to help address and overcome the barriers that disabled people face when using the transport system. We are looking for eight people to advise us on disability issues; such as on key policies, strategies and projects.

You will need to enjoy influencing decision makers and will have a passion for doing business in a way that enhances accessibility for disabled people in transport. The people required for this post will need to demonstrate that they have influenced and driven significant change within their career, perhaps in a voluntary or related advisory role in transport, or other service industry. It is a desirable criteria that you will have had experience of "using public transport as a disabled person". You will work with us 12-18 days per year (£350 per day, with expenses paid). Whether your background is in the public, private or not-for-profit sector, if you believe you can help us make a difference, please apply.

We want to be as diverse as the city we represent, and welcome applications from everyone, regardless of gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, faith or disability.

For further information about these roles and to obtain an application pack, go to www.tfl.gov.uk/tfl/about/equality.asp email idag@tfl.gov.uk or telephone (020) 7126 4601. Closing date is 7th April.

DN EXTRA SERVICES

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Senior Research Analyst/ Research Analyst

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Secondments welcome (for 2+ yrs)

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) aims to improve the experience of people who use social care by developing and promoting knowledge about good practice in the sector. We have created this position to develop our work on the evidence base for social care, including our systematic reviews. The role presents a unique opportunity to work within a national organisation with a national remit.

You will need a high level of expertise and interest in evidence-based policy and practice in social welfare, and an interest in one or more of SCIE's work programme themes. You will work as a member of our Research and Reviews team, developing our methods of systematic review in social care, and applying them in commissioning projects in one of more of SCIE's themes. You will be interested in the issues in synthesising a wide range of knowledge sources in reviews and in involving people who use services in this work.

Your work will be aided by the exceptional facilities we have here, which include academic and secretarial support and unrivalled access to electronic knowledge sources. You will also have extensive contact with other national and international centres of expertise in systematic review.

Evidence based policy and practice is an international activity and team members regularly collaborate with colleagues in Europe and elsewhere.

Although the work would benefit from a full-time appointment, SCIE is prepared to be flexible and to consider part-time appointments. **Ref. 20/DN**

Practice Development Manager - Adult Services

£35,500 • London SE1

Are you a practitioner or manager who would enjoy the challenge of using your experience to develop frontline practice throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland?

SCIE runs diverse projects to collect, collate, disseminate and test knowledge about effective practice so it can improve services and outcomes for users. Your role will be to manage our projects relating to adult services: learning disabilities, older people and mental health. You will help to decide strategy, deploy resources, lead specific projects and advise other SCIE projects. There will be plenty of direct involvement with service users, practitioners and carers. You will represent SCIE at various forums to ensure we inform other organisations and learn from them.

You may currently be working in social services, research, the private sector or a voluntary organisation. Whatever your background, you must have spent at least three years working in social care settings with specific experience in adult services. This experience will be underpinned by education to degree level or equivalent and a qualification in social care or a related profession, such as nursing, OT or psychology. **Ref. 19/DN**

We offer excellent working conditions and a final salary pension scheme.

If you are disabled and want to know more about our employment opportunities then call our dedicated confidential disability recruitment advice line, hosted by Sabre Employment, on **020 8305 6076** (24 hour answering service).

Please visit **www.scie.org.uk/recruitment/dn** for more information and an application form.

If you don't have access to the web, and require a hard copy, you can email **recruitment@scie.org.uk** or call **020 7089 6884** (textphone: 020 7089 6893) **quoting the appropriate reference.** Packs are available in alternative formats upon request.

Closing date: 5pm, 21 March 2006.

We value diversity in our workforce and are committed to equal opportunities. Disabled candidates who meet the essential criteria are guaranteed an interview.

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